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Nashville District

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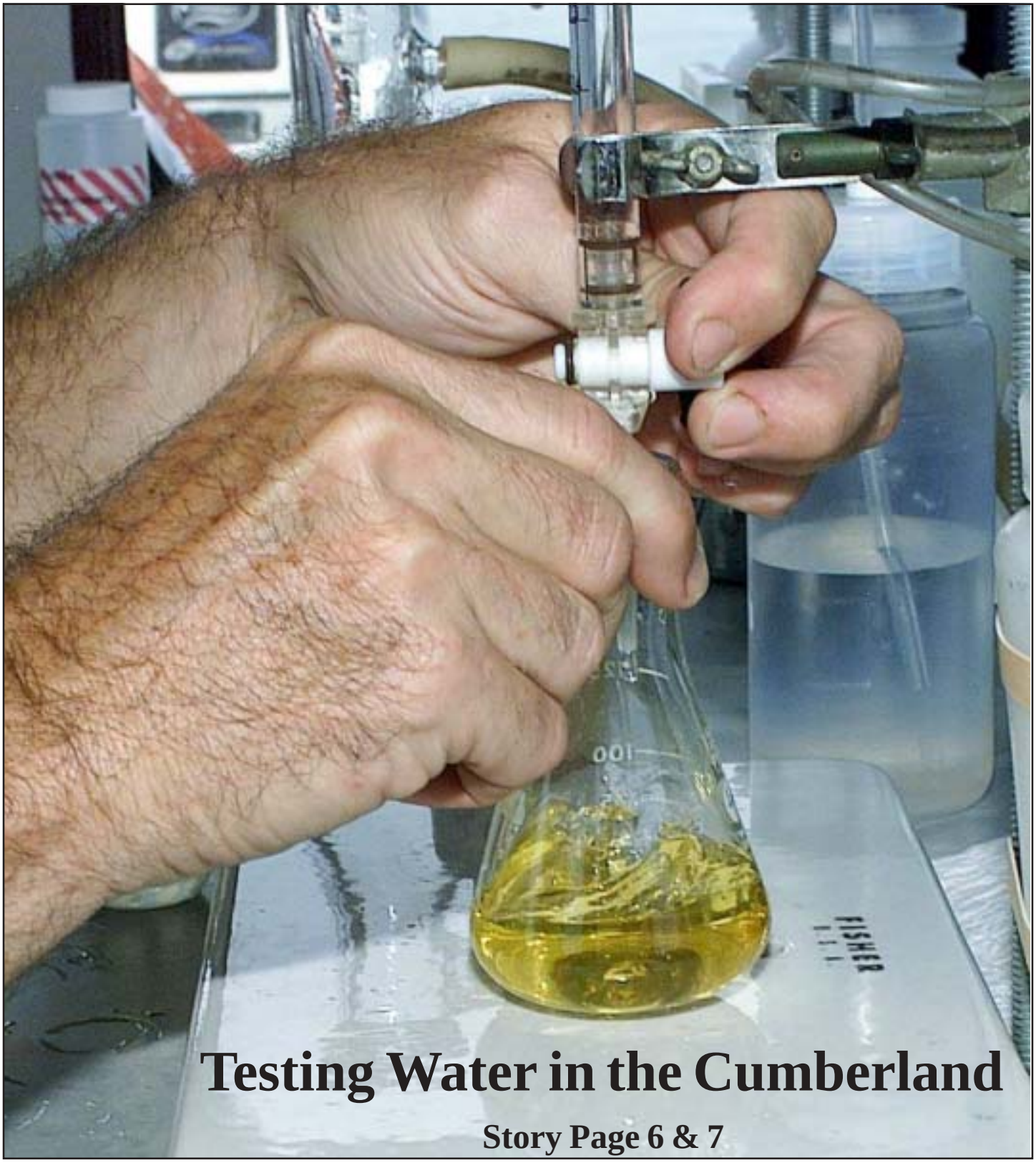

Testing Water in the Cumberland

Story Page 6 & 7

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Pentagon Memorial Competition Seeks Design Ideas

Do you have an idea for a great memorial for the victims of the terrorist attack at the Pentagon? If so, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to enter your idea in the competition for an artistic concept for the outdoor memorial at the Pentagon. The Congressionally authorized Pentagon Memorial will be built near the impact site. The competition is open to everyone. Information on the Pentagon Memorial competition is available on line at http://memorialcompetition.pentagon.mil. Or call toll-free (in the U.S.) 1-866-782-4383.

Photo by Dave Treadway

On the Cover

Richard Tippit mixes a chemical with water in a beaker to test a sample collected in the Cumberland River. See pages 6 & 7 on what the water quality team searches for and what they find while testing samples from different depths of the river. Oct. 18, 2002, has been designated National Water Quality Sampling Day.

DistrictDigest

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Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Gay

The Bottom Line

Hello to everyone in the Nashville District! I hope you are having a great summer!

The project management business process (PMBP) is here! Hopefully by now you have started your self-paced training via the two CDs provided by HQUSACE. If you have not already participated in a facilitated small group discussion, make sure you sign up - besides being mandatory, it's fun and is led by one of the District's very own members of the PMBP process action team (PAT). Speaking of our PMBP PAT, we all owe them thanks for leading this effort!

I recently transmitted an e-mail to the entire Nashville District team in regard to the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act, but thought I should highlight portions of the note in case, for some reason, you did not receive it. The objective of the FAIR Act is to ensure that we are operating in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. Over the next several years we will be required to make a comparison of all outsource eligible positions within the District. Theoretically, the most cost-effective method (DA civilian or contractor) of completing that work would be chosen to perform the required duties. There is no detailed timeline established for the review, nor have we received notification of the specific positions under review. We all have a role in this process and I encourage each of you to look at this as a challenge, not a threat. Your role is to execute your duties efficiently, ensuring we provide the most cost-effective services possible to our customers. By doing this, none of us need fear an objective review of any of our operations, and, most importantly, we can continue to be proud of our service to the country, the Army, and the region. Please watch for future editions of the HR News Letter and the District Digest for more information as it becomes available.

By now, many of you have met Major Pegg. Those of you who have not, please introduce yourself as soon as the opportunity presents itself. Among his other positive attributes, Bob is a great listener and a "people person". I know he will serve you and me with distinction.

I have been fortunate in that I have been able to visit the field a good bit lately. I am always energized and never disappointed whether I am visiting an operations or construction project. One such visit, the Wheeler Lock dewatering, stands out as a perfect example of how so many of you serve the district and nation without any fanfare. There were months of preparation by numerous people in the Operations and Engineering and Construction Divisions. The repair parties, fleet, and project team worked together extremely well. All of this teamwork culminated in the successful completion of the required work more than two days early and most importantly without any accidents!

I have participated in portions of Leadership Development Program classes in the last two months, not to mention receiving several of their project presentations. Soon I will participate in select EAGLE classes. This has served as a reminder to me of how thankful I am for all of you who compete to get a slot in LDP and EAGLE and for all the hard work that you, students and administrators alike, put into making both programs such a success.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the many of you who sacrificed days and weeks away from your families to assist in the Virginia flood recovery mission. You should be proud of what you achieved for the victims in the name of the Corps...I am! In addition, I want to offer a special thanks to the peers and supervisors of those who deployed for this mission, for giving them the opportunity and taking on the extra workload during their absence.

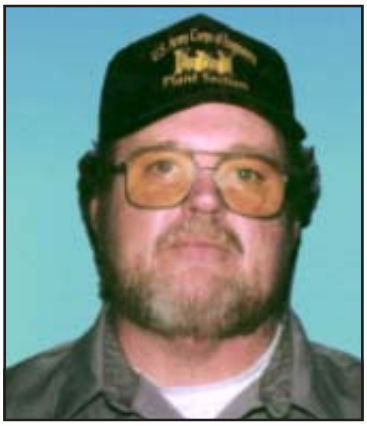
This is the time of the year that we get together with friends and family to barbecue. Did you know 76 percent of American households own a grill and the most recent statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show more than 6,100 accidental fires and explosions occur due to the improper use of grills, resulting in 20,000 emergency room visits and a cost of $29.1 million of estimated damage. So please practice safe grilling techniques this season to keep your families and homes out of harm's way.

Thanks again to everyone for your service to the District and the nation.

Make a Difference! ❑

July Employee of the Month

Pete Leighty, River and Harbor Construction and Maintenance Supervisor for the Maintenance Section in the Operations Division, has been selected as the Employee of the Month for July. Leighty was very involved in the Wheeler Lock dewatering from its earliest planning stages until it was complete. He worked well with the technical staff from Locks Section in developing the schedule before the closure began and ensured the work was executed ahead of this schedule. Leighty's primary goal during the closure and dewatering was to ensure the safety of the work crews and the public. As a direct result of his diligence, there were no accidents or injuries during the dewatering. ❑



Pete Leighty

District Hosts Chinese Visitors

The Nashville District hosted a delegation from China July 12 and shared technology that may help them improve water resources development in that country.

The visit developed when Dr. Sherry Wang, Environmental Program Manager, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, contacted Water Quality Team Leader Bob Sneed and asked if he could share details of the District's environmental restoration program and water quality/control issues with the six-member delegation from the Water Conservancy Department of Jiangsu Province.

Sneed presented the briefing, served as the Corps of Engineers escort officer for the visit and gave them a driving tour of J. Percy Priest Dam. Dr. Wang served as interpreter since none of the group was conversant in English.

Tennessee hosted the delegation for discussion of water conservation issues. The group included Mr. Chen Daohong, director, Luoyun Water Conservancy Engineering Management Division; Mr. Sun Hong Bing, deputy director, Irrigation Canal Management Division; Mr. Han Chengyin, deputy director, Sanhe Sluice Management Division; Mr. Yuan Lian Chong, deputy director, Logistics Service Center, Water Conservancy Department; Mr. Song Yu, section chief, Flood and Drought Prevention Headquarters Office; and Mr. Lu Jiankang, deputy division chief, Development Planning Committee.

Dr. Sherry Wang, right, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, translates the comments of Water Quality Team Leader Bob Sneed for six members of a Chinese delegation visiting Tennessee.

Jiangsu Province plans to construct dams very similar in size to J. Percy Priest and the delegation was very interested in the concept of multipurpose development. ❑

Two Planning Employees Selected for GS-13

by Dave Treadway

Two employees in the Nashville District were recently selected by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) as some of the first planning regional technical specialists advanced to GS-13 in an innovative formal Regional Specialist Program.

Sue Ferguson was selected as a Regional Technical Specialist for Ecosystem Restoration Formulation, and Patty Coffey was selected for Environmental Compliance and Analysis. They are among only six selected Division-wide for the new positions.

The Regional Specialist Program was initiated this year because officials felt the loss of technical talent and saw the need for maintaining technical expertise within every level of the Corps of Engineers. Headquarters USACE and other Corps Divisions will now closely watch the LRD Program to see if this model will be the future to maintaining technical competence for the premier public engineering agency for the United States.

A regional technical specialist is an expert in a technical field with experience and specialized capabilities who can work on projects throughout the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division and provide quality control and independent technical review.

Ferguson began working for the Nashville District in 1979 in Construction Division but has been a biologist for most of her career. The Tennessee Tech grad who earned a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering said the scope of her new position, really has yet to be defined.

"We will perform technical review of projects," said Ferguson, "from throughout the Division. This program now gives planners a career path outside of project management. Formerly you had to be a supervisor or either a project manager to go beyond a GS-12."

Patty Coffey has worked for the Corps for more than 20 years and 16 of those have been as a planner. Coffey, who holds a Bachelors Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a Masters in Biology from Tennessee Tech, is excited about the selection and anxious about the opportunities that come with her selection. "At the same time," said Coffey, "you always have a little anxiety about new things. For the last two years or so, Ray Hedrick, Tom Swor and I have already been doing some technical review of projects outside the District. I have served as the team leader for the Environmental Compliance Team while Tom Swor was working on the Ohio River Mainstem study. I believe this means I will be assigned more to projects instead of the administrative end of things."

Coffee

Ferguson

During April, Structural Engineer Ken Hull and flood protection Hydraulic Specialist John Hunter were selected as technical specialists in their field. ❑

Wheeler Lock Dewatered in Record Time

by Dave Treadway

The dewatering of Wheeler Lock was completed in record time during June. The Lock reopened to barge traffic at noon on June 24, 78 hours ahead of schedule, under budget and with no accidents, much to the delight of the towing industry.

Bill Dyer with Tennessee Valley Towing, Inc., said finishing the dewatering early easily saved him $15,000. "I had four boats sitting there and they were costing me money every hour they had to wait to lock through. I really appreciate everyone working hard to finish the job ahead of schedule."

"We thought the dewatering went very well," said Steve Southern, Ingram Barge Company, in Paducah, Kentucky, who also appreciated the early reopening of the Lock. "Reopening early certainly helped us and we hope other dewaterings go just as smoothly."

The District Engineer had high praise for those involved.

"All members of our maintenance crew," said Leiutenant Colonel Steve Gay, "worked cohesively in an outstanding demonstration of superb teamwork!"

Process

Dave Day, deputy district engineer, Programs and Project Management, said the excellent work was the result of a well-defined process. "This demonstrates the effectiveness of the project management business process – having a good plan, schedule, and budget; preparing for any risks that could impact the schedule, and great teamwork by a trained group of folks doing the work. All were done in an outstanding manner."

Jeff Ross, Navigation Branch, explained what it took to accomplish the task ahead of schedule. "It was a long process, much more so than just showing up and pumping out the lock. We got with Lockmaster Gary Bowling months in advance to find out what work we needed to do, what we could get accomplished, material we needed to purchase.

"Alton Hester and Brad Bishop worked closely with Roy Joines and Pete Leighty to establish work criteria and the priorities, setting out the entire flow. We brought in the foremen, who actually directs the first-line supervisors, for some of the decision-making. We got their input on changes that needed to be made, different techniques they knew we could use, bringing their experience into the specification writing. It was the first time we have ever done that on this particular dewatering."

Photo by Brad Bishop

Gary Fleeman, Lock & Dam Equipment mechanic, repairs a section of damaged concrete June 19 by positioning armor plating over the area to prevent future damage.

Lockmaster Gary Bowling agreed that planning was crucial. "The dewatering was so successful," said Bowling, "due to the planning of the job during the pre-dewatering meeting and following through with that plan. Success should also be credited to the whole team. It was a great team effort!"

"Another thing we did," continued Ross, "was incorporate some previous work from a short closure in December at Wheeler for three days to inspect some closure structures on the upper end. We finished up some work on the upper gate in the whole upper gate bay area, which allowed us to not have to dewater that end, which saved many hours on the setup and at the end of the dewatering when we would have had to remove those structures.

"Before the setup period, we met with the workers, went over the specifications with them, what we were after, where the equipment needed to be, so that helped facilitate things in the setup. Pete Leighty did a very good job as the overall on-sight foreman, he came early and stayed late to make sure everything got done. Everyone recognized the importance of doing the work and they were allowed to take part, to actually take ownership of their individual tasks which really helped. The speed with which we got it done is a point of pride but we are also proud of the safety record.

"Jim Davis and Gary Bowling have always been outstanding people to work with," continued Ross, "they realize the inconvenience of shutting down the lock, and worked hard to make sure boats were going through the auxiliary lock. Jim made his entire staff available for our use. Jim McBride, Lockmaster from Guntersville Lock, came over and served as our safety officer, and that's a practice that works well and we plan to continue that. When we dewater Pickwick Lock this month, Jim Mowery from Watts Bar is going to be the safety officer."

Gerald Barnes, director, Directorate of Civil Works and Management, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, said, "Such accomplishments say a lot about quality and dedication, professional work ethics, team work and empowering leadership." ❑

Photo by Alton Hester

Lock & Dam Equipment mechanic Ben Amos cleans around a cracked weld.

Team Works to Improve Water Qu

Story and Photos
by Dave Treadway

The Cumberland River, as the second largest Ohio River tributary, drains approximately 18,000 square miles within the states of Kentucky and Tennessee. Both the quality and quantity of water within a significant portion of the Cumberland River Basin are directly impacted by how Nashville District operates the10 reservoir projects in the basin.

A recent Hendersonville Star newspaper article praised the quality of the water in the basin, the result of many years' work by a team of Nashville District engineers and scientists.

Over the past several years, an ever-increasing interest by both public and private entities concerning the quality and timing of water released from District projects prompted development of the inter-disciplinary team to study issues associated with minimum flow and dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in project releases. Bob Sneed, Engineering Construction, Hydraulics Branch, was designated Project Manager.

Process

"Our first task," said Sneed, "was to inventory, assess, and prioritize water quality issues within the District. Fortunately, we were able to benefit from a long history of outstanding water quality professionals and more than 30 years of historical water quality data. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) had also been addressing similar water quality issues over a period of several years through their Reservoir Release Improvement Program. TVA expended in excess of $40 million and remedied several very similar water quality issues. It only seemed logical to tap into their expertise to start our program."

According to Sneed, this was accomplished through a series of low-cost preliminary assessments where TVA, working closely with the District water quality staff, reviewed, evaluated, and made recommendations for water quality restoration projects. As a result, the District benefited from lessons learned without having to pay the price up front. Ultimately, assessments and recommendations made by TVA, coupled with water quality staff evaluations, produced a Water Quality Restoration Plan for the Cumberland River Basin.

Ten multi-purpose water resources projects in the valley built by the Corps of Engineers to prevent flooding, allow the navigation industry to flourish, produce hydroelectric power, and provide recreation benefits to millions of visitors each year also present unique challenges to the quality of water that passes through the basin.

Of those 10, four are main-stem projects used by the navigation industry and are characterized by their relatively shallow depth and short hydraulic residence time, which means that water typically moves through these projects in a matter of a few days. By contrast, water is retained in the tributary projects for as much as a year. Tributary projects are also distinguished by their branching nature and greater depth responsible for providing the flood control storage necessary to effectively manage runoff during and after significant storm events.

The basic functions of the storage projects lead to water quality conditions quite different from those in the main-stem reservoirs. During periods of drought, water temperature and levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) throughout the main-stem projects can be effectively managed by planned, systematic releases from the storage projects in coordination with scheduled hydropower generation.

Mark Campbell collects a water sample from the Cumberland River for testing.

Old Hickory Lake is one of those main-stem projects that benefit from both navigation and hydropower releases. "People may think Old Hickory is dirty because it's murky," said Joe Holland of the Tennessee Environmental Assistance Center, "but just the opposite is true." Holland oversees routine testing done on Old Hickory and its tributaries and says the murkiness is simply due to unsettled sediment combined with algae.

"The impression many people have of the lake is due to the appearance of the water, but through years of testing and reams of data we just don't find anything alarming," said Sneed. The true value of scientifically testing water is that it provides a more complete view of water quality that goes beyond its surface appearance, according to Sneed.

Water quality issues associated with the six tributary projects present a much greater challenge, one that cannot be accomplished solely with operational modifications. Sneed said this will require the design, funding, and installation of

uality in Cumberland River Basin

physical modifications and additions to these very large structures, many of which are in excess of 50 years old. The technical and fiscal challenges associated with this work dictate the need to seek out and apply innovative, developing technologies.

Some water quality problems associated with releases from tributary projects are seasonal in nature. Generally, from December through May water quality conditions in these projects are good. From June through November, oxygen levels become depleted at the lower depths of the lake often causing releases to be low in oxygen content. The necessary design of the hydropower intakes deep in the pool to maximize generating potential and efficiency exacerbates the low DO problem. Those releases may also contain excessive levels of certain metals and odor causing agents.

One of the real values of hydropower is its ability to quickly meet peak power demands. However, this necessitates storing water rather than ensuring a continuous minimum flow. This produces an operating schedule that reflects heavy use during peak power demand periods followed by extended periods of no discharge. As a result, the respective tailwater reach is subject to tremendous fluctuations of depth and discharge. A gravel bar may be inundated with several feet of water during peak use and then left high and dry for several hours at other times. The food chain vital for fish growth and development is not able to react quickly enough to such conditions and therefore aquatic life suffers.

The water released from all Nashville District projects must comply with water quality standards established by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Tennessee through an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). To this end, the District water quality staff works closely with the regulatory and fish and game agencies of both states, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and numerous private environmental organizations such as Trout Unlimited and the Cumberland River Compact.

Sneed's water quality team of Jack Brown (now retired), Glenn Johnson, Richard Tippit, and Mark Campbell regularly tests the water in all District lakes at set locations and varying depths. The parameters monitored include temperature, DO, ph, various nutrients, and selected metals. They meticulously record all readings and have years of data on which to base decisions about changes the team recommends. They also share that data for use by other agencies.

It was just such data that showed DO levels in releases from Center Hill Dam on the Caney Fork River and Dale Hollow Dam on the Obey River made those two powerplants primary candidates for turbine venting modifications pioneered by TVA. The applicable State of Tennessee water quality standard for dissolved oxygen requires an instantaneous minimum value of 6.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l) for cold water streams. The historical water quality database indicated in most years the DO in releases from both of these projects fell below 3.0 mg/l.

Turbine venting was selected because it is a low-cost, effective means to significantly improve DO in project releases without significant impacts to other project purposes. Turbine venting is site-specific technology requiring somewhat involved engineering evaluations prior to implementation. Following favorable evaluation, selected hydropower units were modified at Center Hill, Dale Hollow, and Wolf Creek. Results were so impressive when evaluated over a period of several months, according to Sneed, that additional units were modified at each of these projects.

A total of nine turbines have been modified, three each at Wolf Creek, Dale Hollow, and Center Hill. The turbine venting modifications, which include both the installation of baffles on the turbine hub and modifications to

Continued on Page 9
See *Water Quality*

2002 Proclaimed Year of Clean Water

October 18, 2002 is the 30th Anniversary of the enactment of the Clean Water Act. This date marks a milestone in efforts to protect this nation's water resources.

In support of these goals, Congress proclaimed 2002 as the Year of Clean Water. The America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) will coordinate and facilitate a series of events during the month of October to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the passage of the Clean Water Act. In addition, government agencies and private organizations will also sponsor many national and watershed specific events designed to promote public involvement, provide education and outreach, support technical exchange and document the status of water quality since the initial passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act.

A web site has been established (www.yearofcleanwater.org) to list planned activities, post State and Federal proclamations, as well as provide a variety of resource material and a history of the Clean Water Act. Mark Your Calendar for National Water Monitoring Day!

Citizen monitors including families, classrooms, civic organizations and service clubs can participate in National Water Monitoring Day and sample for a core set of water quality parameters (temperature, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen) using an inexpensive National Water Monitoring Day test kit available through the web site. ❑

Richard Tippit uses chemicals to highlight impurities and then strains the water through a micro filter.

Nature Conservancy, Corps Sign Partnership

The Nature Conservancy and the Army Corps of Engineers signed an agreement July 9 to work together to improve the management of dams on various rivers across the country.

Under the new partnership, entitled the Sustainable Rivers Project, the two organizations will work to improve dam operations, helping to restore and protect the health of rivers and surrounding natural areas while continuing to meet human needs for services such as flood control and power generation. The partnership is one that both organizations expect will improve the quality of America's waterways.

"At the heart of this agreement is a shared vision of restoring and protecting hundreds of river miles and thousands of acres of some of our nation's most important natural habitats," said Steven McCormick, president of The Nature Conservancy. "This agreement is a result of conservationists and dam managers sitting down at the table together, stating our objectives openly, and agreeing to work together to find solutions that are acceptable to all involved."

Communication

"We intend to build sustainability into the planning, construction and operation of our projects," said Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, the Army's Chief of Engineers, "and it is critical that we adapt our management of America's rivers to meet the needs of the human and natural communities. The Nature Conservancy has a great deal of expertise to help us make that possible."

Working with the Agency will be nothing new for the Nashville District. In May District employees joined forces with the Nature Conservancy of Tennessee to protect endangered bats and crayfish that inhabit caves near Cordell Hull Lake in Jackson County, Tennessee. They constructed steel gates across six entrances to two separate cave systems. The gates restrict human access into the cave systems while providing suitable means of access for one endangered species.

The Army Corps of Engineers operates 630 dams for flood control, navigation and other purposes on numerous rivers across the United States.

The Sustainable Rivers Project will consist of a coordinated review and alteration of dam operations. There are, at this time, 13 candidate dams on nine rivers in nine states. One of those is on the Green River in Kentucky. Other dams may also become part of this project.

The Conservancy and the Corps are basing their expectation for success at these sites upon their ongoing collaborative efforts to improve the quality of habitat and other conditions along the Green River in Kentucky. The Green ranks as the nation's fourth most diverse river in terms of variety of fish and mussel species, and provides water and recreational opportunities to thousands of people from around the state and throughout the region.

"Everyday we learn a little bit more about how we can better serve the public, and that includes how we can better protect and restore our nation's natural treasures," concluded LTG Flowers. ❑

Photo by Steven Foshee

Workers from the Nature Conservancy of Tennessee, Nashville District Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, weld steel gates to protect caves and their endangered occupants from humans access.

Sustainable Rivers Project:

Implementation Essentials

On the selected rivers, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to:

- ❍ Work together to determine the water flow requirements needed to restore and maintain natural ecosystem health
- ❍ Work with the surrounding communities to determine the influences and needs of people in the area
- ❍ Identify areas of uncertainty and/or potential conflict
- ❍ Conduct water management experiments to resolve uncertainties
- ❍ Find resolutions to conflicts
- ❍ Design and implement an adaptive water management plan that incorporates the need for ongoing assessment and revision ❑

DuPont Land Donation Doubles Size of Corps Recreation Site

Story and Photo by Dave Treadway

The DuPont Corporation in Old Hickory donated a parcel of land to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers July 12 in a deed transfer ceremony at Old Hickory Lake.

Old Hickory Resource Manager Carl Crews, who has worked with DuPont for several years on the transfer, accepted the document and the 9.1 acres of real estate from DuPont Plant Manager Larry Jackson.

"DuPont wants to be both a good steward of the environment," said Jackson, "and also a valuable member of the community. We believe we are accomplishing both by making this parcel of land adjacent to Old Hickory Beach Recreation Area available for use by the visiting public. We believe a larger recreation area will make a safer environment."

Crews said the additional land will allow the Corps to greatly improve the popular beach site as resources become available. Crews said more than 200,000 people visited the Recreation Area site last year.

Real Estate Division Chief Bill Barnes, who has been involved with DuPont since the proposal was initially made, presented a certificate of appreciation to Jackson for the Corporate donation of land valued at more than $90,000.

The donation by DuPont will enable the Corps to upgrade the popular beach by providing additional recreation facilities to accommodate the ever-increasing crowds brought about by the rapid growth in the metro Nashville area.

Ranger Freddie Bell said the additional land will permit the Corps to make the area safer and better serve the public with one access point rather than the two which presently require monitoring.

Keith Harned, Safety, Health and Environmental manager for DuPont, said the safety of visitors to the popular beach recreation area was DuPont's primary reason for donating the land.

"We see this as an opportunity to make a positive contribution to the community," said Harned, "and share our core value of safety. Donations of this nature that have a visible impact on the community and improve safety for visitors are a benefit to all of us," he concluded. ❑

Old Hickory Lake Resource Manager Carl Crews, (right) accepts the deed for 9.1 acres of land from DuPont Plant Manager Larry Jackson July 12.

Water Quality

Continued From Page 7

the air supply system, were completed by project maintenance personnel. The modified turbines are inspected periodically to assess any cavitation damage resulting from these modifications. The first hub baffles have now been in place for about three years with little, if any, documented damage.

The turbine venting modifications have resulted in significant improvements to the respective tailwater environments. Not only has the DO been increased by 1-2 mg/l., but there has also been a corresponding increase in aquatic insect life. State resource biologists and fishermen have praised District efforts, citing a marked improvement in the trout fisheries. ❑

PMBP Says Just Duit!

Register now for PMBP Group Discussions and beat the rush! You may register on the Intranet home page: http://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil or via the direct link: http://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/pmbp. You must have reviewed PMBP CD 1 and 2 to actively participate.

At the main menu you may register for a session, change a session that you are currently registered for or view a list of participants in each session. Just DUIT by following the on-line directions.

Thurs., Aug. 15, at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
Tues., Aug. 20, at 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Wed., Aug. 21, at 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Thurs., Aug. 22, at 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Tues., Aug. 27, at 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Wed., Aug. 28, at 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Thurs., Aug. 29, at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. ❑

Employees Make a Difference with Ideas for Improvement

Several District employees have recently made suggestions that were adopted and are making a difference where they work.

- Mr. Anthony Watter's (Wolf Creek Power Plant) idea was to install a warning light near each Air Circuit Breaker to warn employees of a pending operation. This idea will provide safety benefits beyond his place of work.
- Mr. Justin Reed, J.Percy Priest Resource, proposed filling life jugs with expanding foam installation to increase the durability and buoyancy of life jugs used at swim areas.

- Mr. Carl Scott's (Florence Repair Station) idea was to place suggestion boxes at the Repair Stations and aboard the MV Warioto and Iroquois.
- Ms. Sherry Phillips, Executive Office, suggested videotaping observances and events held in the Nashville District Office and then provide them to the field personnel. This will help the entire District to be more informed of activities.
- Mr. R.M. Campbell, Pickwick Lock, suggested installing a lock gate safety enhancement. His suggestion will increase employee awareness when lock gates are operational. ❑

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to…

…Bob Tuck, husband of Debbie Tuck, Regulatory Branch. He received the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal from the Commander of the 386th Expeditionary Support Squad for his work while on active duty in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Southern Watch.

…the son of Joanne Booker, Construction Branch, Patrick T. Booker, was selected for Who's Who Among American High School Students. He is a sophomore at Montgomery Central High School, Cunningham, Tenn.

…Bill Jackson, Martins Fork Lake, on his temporary assignment in the Nashville District's Natural Resources Branch as a fish and wildlife specialist.

…Judy Potaczek, training program specialist in Resource Management. Her daughter Stacy Wozniak graduated from Tarleton State University, College of Agriculture, Stephenville, Tex., Aug. 10 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Production.

… Pete Leighty, construction and maintenance supervisor for the Maintenance Section in the Operations Division, who is the employee of the Month for July.

…Mark Willis, park ranger at Dale Hollow, selected for a temporary assignment as the resource manager at Laurel River Lake.

…Gregg Nivens, conservation biologist at Dale Hollow, chosen for a temporary assignment as the resource manager at Martins Fork.

Welcome to…

…Brian Mangrum, new co-op ranger at Lake Barkley. He is from Dickson, Tenn., and a student at the UT Martin majoring in Natural Resources Management.

…Paul Kelly, new ranger co-op student at J. Percy Priest Lake, he attends MTSU.

…Jessica Patton, the new student aide at Lake Barkley. She is enrolled at Paducah Community College.

Farewell to…

… Larry G. Brown, civil engineering technician, Dale Hollow Lake, retired on June 1. Dale Hollow Resource is collecting for a retirement gift. If you would like to contribute, please contact or mail your contribution to: Resource Manager, Dale Hollow Lake, 5050 Dale Hollow Dam Road, Celina, TN 38551-9708, 931-243-3136.

…John Lambrecht, chief of information management, retired on Aug. 2 with 44 years of dedicated service.

Sympathy to…

…the family of Jack Donaldson, retired park ranger from Dale Hollow Lake, passed away July 26 after an extended illness. He is survived by his wife, Wanda H. Donalson of Celina, Tn.

…the family of Carol Restey, Information Management, whose mother, Rose Clark, recently passed away. Memorial services will be held in Auburn, N.Y.

…Donna Davis, Real Estate Division, whose 8-year-old nephew, Lucas Dudley, passed away July 10.

…the family of Todd Duncan, whose father-in-law, Tony Tolliver, passed away on July 7 in Miami, Fl.

…the family of Tim Rochelle, Project Delivery Branch, on the death of his father-in-law, James Neely, on July 10.

…the family of Deana Gerding, civil engineer tech at Lake Barkley, whose father, Mr. Hayden Gerding, passed away on Aug 1.

Wedding Bells…

…Mike Ezell, senior operator for the Old Hickory Power Plant, who gave his daughter away in marriage on July 27.

Get Well to…

…Corazon Mundy, budget analyst, Real Estate Office, who is recovering from surgery at her home. She has additional follow up treatment in the next couple months.

Thanks to…

…Anita Taylor, Construction Branch in Pineville. Everyone from Martins Fork Lake wants to give her a big "thank you" for all the help she has given them!

Baby Brigade…

…Brigitte Rugare, secretary in the Project Planning Branch, on the occasion of her second great-grandchild, Brian Patrick Duncan, who arrived July 11 weighing 8 lbs., 12 oz. in Duluth, Ga. Proud parents are her granddaughter Karen and husband David Duncan. That makes 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

…Henri Leveridge, office assistant at Wolf Creek Power Plant, on the birth of her granddaughter, Rheagan Michelle, who was born on July 16 weighing 7 lbs., 9 3/4 oz., and was 19 in. long. Proud parents are Jason and Dee Leveridge.

…Doug Radley, assistant deputy chief of Programs and Project Management, on the birth of his grandson, Matthew Blake, born on July 30. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz., and is 19 in. long. ❑

EAGLES Learn to Face the Camera

The 2002 EAGLES (Employees Achieving Greatness & Leadership Excellence) visited Old Hickory Powerhouse, Lock, and Dam on June 13 and participated in a media techniques class where they learned the value of preparing for live and taped radio or television interviews during the course of their jobs. This class proved valuable since most EAGLES are stationed at Corps Projects and are often in the public eye. Classes were a valuable lesson in what the camera actually sees. They learned what not to do when appearing on camera, such as wearing sunglasses that hide the eyes from viewers, using body language that can contradict what you are trying to communicate verbally, and failing to maintain eye contact with the camera.

EAGLES also learned the history of the Old Hickory project, how it was completed in December 1957 at a cost of $50 million with primary purposes of hydroelectric power production and navigation. Secondary purposes include recreation, conservation, and flood control. ❑

Owen Traughber faces the TV camera at Nashville Repair Station.

He Ensures Projects Completed to Specs

by Spc. John D. Weismann
314th Public Affairs Detachment

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan – An environmental control supervisor from Knoxville, Tennessee, for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, is deployed to Afghanistan to ensure a safer and more secure environment for the people of this country and his own.

"Of course it had a major impact on my life, leaving behind my job and my family," said Capt. Joe McMahan, officer in charge of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion's Public Works team, "but the job we're doing over here is important, both to the people of Afghanistan and the people back home."

As part of a Public Works team, McMahan is assigned to the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force. His duties require him to travel, along with his team to remote parts of Afghanistan were Coalition Humanitarian Liaison centers have identified humanitarian projects. After the CJCMOTF funds the project, it is the task of the Public Works team to see the project through to completion.

"We make sure that the work on the project is being done on schedule," said McMahan, "and that the work is up to the quality outlined in the contract." This requires the team to make daily visits to more than a dozen projects on any given day, settle disputes between contracted workers and local officials about the standards of the contracted work, and inspect the quality of the work being performed.

"It's all knowing how to work with people," said McMahan. "The experience from my job with the Corps of Engineers has helped a lot with my job here." In Knoxville, McMahan oversees and regulates projects to ensure that they comply with environmental safety regulations, which is quite a bit different from overseeing humanitarian reconstruction projects. Each, however, require him to coordinate and mediate between different parties, parties often hostile towards one another. It also requires him to be detailed-oriented with the project requirements and occasionally lay down the law to squabbling parties.

Having recently completed a number of projects in the Mazar-e-Sharif region, the team will now move on to oversee projects in other areas. Wherever he travels however, his heart is never far from home, and he is constantly in the thoughts and prayers of the family, friends, and co-workers who he's left behind. ❑

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Pratt

Capt. Joe MacMahon (left) and Capt Titus Rodriguez (right), both members of the Public Works Team, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, Knoxville, Tenn., observe the celebration of the Afghan New Year at the Mazar-e-Sharif Airport in early March, The event was attended by Chairman Hamid Karzai, and Generals Ishmael Khan and Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Retiree Luncheon Planned

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Retiree Luncheon will be held on Oct. 16, at Piccadilly Cafeteria, Madison, Tenn., beginning at 12 noon. District Engineer Lieutenant Colonel Steve Gay will be there to meet retirees. For more information, call Hobart Parrish at 822-1286. ❑

Commentary

Peoples Glad to be Back from Afghanistan

by Bill Peoples

First, let me thank all the team members of the Nashville District for your thoughts, prayers, and the care packages. I appreciated all of them very much. I deployed with the 314th Public Affairs Detachment. We had a very successful deployment with probably the most important point being: we brought everyone home who deployed with us.

The 314th was the primary public affairs unit deployed to Afghanistan and the first Reserve Component PA unit sent into the theater of operations. We were spread out in three primary locations, Kandahar, Bagram and Kabul, and we provided media relations and command information support to commands in those locations.

I was in charge of the seven-person team in Kabul attached to the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force. The CJCMOTF (pronounced See-Jic-Mot-Tif) was responsible for the Coalition's civil-military support and humanitarian aid projects in Afghanistan.

I had four military journalists and two military broadcasters working for me. They produced stories on the humanitarian aid projects for military publications around the world and supported the media relations operations. They deployed to many parts of country enduring austere and dangerous conditions to tell the humanitarian aid story.

I had four main job responsibilities. In addition to being a team leader, I was the media operations officer for the CJCMOTF, the command information chief, and the public affairs project officer. As the media operations officer, I was responsible for publicizing the CJCMOTF's humanitarian aid projects throughout Afghanistan. We had projects in 10 primary locations in

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western, central, and southern Afghanistan and as I was leaving, we were moving into eastern Afghanistan, where most of the operational activities had taken place. In this capacity, I dealt with many media representatives from local Afghan media to U.S. local and national media to international media. I spent a lot of time getting media out to our projects throughout the country.

As the command information chief, I was responsible for production of both the print and broadcast stories to be used by internal military publications and by Armed Forces Radio and Television. I am proud of my team, which produced print stories, broadcast stories and radio stories. We also did live radio interviews from Kabul to the Armed Forces Network in Frankfort, Germany and to several radio stations in the U.S. I also edited the print stories and released them for publication.

In my public affairs project officer activities, I used my experience working with USACE projects and project managers to ensure that each project received both command information and external media coverage at key times during the life of the project.

People ask me, "How was Afghanistan?" and "How were the people?" I have to report that Afghanistan really is a third world country that has been devastated by 23 years of war. Just being in a third world country with little modern infrastructure such as electricity, sewage, or water systems, makes you appreciate our country. When you see the rubble of whole sections of towns and cities which have been blown apart, the lack of work for many people, the many people who are refugees, and the lack of economic, commerce or even banking activities, you become acutely aware of how far this country has to go to recover.

Overall, Afghans were very appreciative to the U.S. military for helping to rid the country of the Taliban and al Qaeda and for the humanitarian aid we were providing. The people as a whole were also very friendly to us. Because so many former Taliban had assimilated back into villages and even into Northern Alliance forces, we still operated in a very dangerous environment and were always aware of possible threats.

You can be proud of what the U.S. military is doing to help. When I left, we had committed over $4.7 million to humanitarian aid projects in Afghanistan of a $5 million budget for this year. It was projected that we would spend the total amount well before the end of the fiscal year.

We are rebuilding schools and providing wells for villages. We are also working to rebuild medical clinics and to restore needed infrastructure such as bridges, roads and electricity. We are using local contracted Afghan labor so all of the money is going directly into the Afghan economy. Because of the low labor rate and low cost of materials, the buying power of the U.S. dollar is phenomenal. The buying power ratio is about one to ten so our $5 million has the buying power or impact of us spending $50 million in the U.S.

Although I missed family, friends, and my co-workers here at the Nashville District, I am glad I went. I am proud that the 314th PAD was able to live up to the Army Reserve's motto "When we were needed, we were there." The mission continues as another Army Reserve public affairs unit replaced us. We are still at war and there are about 7,500 personnel: soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and DoD civilians serving in harm's way in Afghanistan now. So I would ask you the next time you see an American flag or hear our National Anthem to pause and take a moment to remember them for their service and sacrifice. ❑

August Dates in District History

1834, August 8 - U.S. Civil Engineer Howard Stansbury begins the first survey of the Upper Cumberland.

1888, August 18 - Prompted by requests of the Cumberland River Commission, various legislators, and the engineering faculty at Vanderbilt University, U.S. Army Engineer District established in Nashville at 609 Broad Street. Colonel John Barlow moved into the District office as its first District Engineer on Oct. 1.

1933, August 1 - Chattanooga District is abolished due to the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

1966, August 20 - Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey dedicates the Barkley Lock and Dam project, which was completed for $20 million less than the original estimate. He symbolically mixed the waters from both river basins to commemorate the opening of the Barkley Canal.

1973, August - Congressman Joe L. Evins pulls a lever to power up the first generator at Cordell Hull Dam. ❑